

## **SYLFF KOLLEG - FORCED MIGRATION**

The fellows of the SYLFF Mikrokolleg will work on a variety of aspects related to international forced migration which is understood as a cross-border “migratory movement in which an element of coercion exists, including threats to life and livelihood, whether arising from natural or man-made causes” (International Organisation for Migration). The fellows will

- analyse the root causes of international forced migration in the home countries, including poverty, loss of land, and the persecution due to ethnicity, traditions and religious beliefs,
- evaluate the effectiveness of different international approaches to respond to forced migration in the home countries, such as humanitarian action, foreign aid, institution building and democracy promotion,
- focus on the rights of forced migrants and refugees in different legal orders and on the duties of the involved actors, including the host state, international of regional organisations

The SYLFF Mikrokolleg invites the application of excellent young researchers with a strong interest in research on international forced migration, with a background in economics, law, political science or sociology and with a clear commitment towards cross-disciplinary cooperation.

### **Research perspective: MIGRATION AND ALTERNATIVE HUMANITARIANISM**

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One of the most important answers of the international community to forced migration resulting from wars, armed conflict and human rights violations has been an increase of funding for humanitarian assistance. Indeed, the financial means available for humanitarian action have more than tripled in the years between 2007 and today. Next to the fact that humanitarian assistance and the operation of huge refugee camps is certainly not a long-term answer to forced migration, the humanitarian system, as it is set up today, has been criticized among others for a strong northern bias and a lack of recognition of local and national capacities, for creating dependencies instead of sustainable results and for increasingly not being able to reach those in need. These problems have been reflected in the results of the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 and a number of commitments were made. In parallel, the humanitarian system began to change from bottom up. New actors, e.g. diaspora communities and local organizations gained importance and new forms of cooperation evolved that may have the potential to fundamentally change the humanitarian system and the current refugee regime. This research perspective aims at analyzing these changes.